



# The Town Crier

A Newsletter from the Town of Warrenton



## Fire Prevention Program Now Mandatory for Businesses

The Warrenton Building Official's Office and the Fire Marshal have initiated a Fire Prevention Program for the owners and occupants of commercial and institutional structures within the Town. Participation in the program, which began on a voluntary basis a few years ago, will be required in 2009. This has become necessary because of the increase in commercial condominiums, public assembly spaces and related activities in the Town.

The two principle means of improving fire safety under this program will be increased fire safety awareness and mandatory inspections.

Over 630 letters were sent out with a contact sheet to be completed by each building representative. This will assist the Town in developing a database that can be used to respond to emergencies, issue notifications and set up inspections in the future. Business contacts were selected from the Town's Business License file, excluding any home-based businesses, as these are exempt.

Some confusion exists on whether the responsible party is the building owner or the tenant. While it is the building owner who is primarily responsible for fire protection and code compliance, the increase of condo owners and associations led fire prevention officials to contact all businesses whether they are owners or renters.

In July 2008, the Town Council authorized the Community Development Department to begin charging a fee to support a fire prevention program for all commercial structures



within the Town limits. The program consists of the Fire Marshals performing inspections to verify that commercial structures are being properly maintained for fire protection, and that owners and tenants are aware of prevention measures to avoid fire hazards.

In 2008 the Town initialized an informal inspection program. Notices went out in early 2009 to let businesses know that as of July 1, 2009 fire safety inspections will be mandatory. The department hopes to conduct initial inspections of factories and other potentially hazardous use structures during the first half of 2009, since these are at highest risk.

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## Think Ahead. Get Your Town Decal

It's time to renew your Town of Warrenton vehicle decal. It's required for all vehicles stored or garaged in Town, and is proof that you've paid your vehicle tax.

Placement of the sticker is due by March 15, 2009, but you might as well plan ahead and get yours early. The cost of the decal for most vehicles is twenty-five dollars.

If your vehicle was previously registered in Warrenton, you probably got a decal renewal notice by mail. That's the easiest way to get your new decal. If your vehicle has never been registered in Warrenton, or you need help get-

ting your decal or paying your vehicle taxes, go to Town Hall (18 Court Street). When your taxes are paid, they'll issue you a decal.

For most vehicles, your decal should be affixed to your windshield, just to the right of your Virginia state inspection sticker.

If you have questions or need further assistance, please call the Warrenton Police Department at (540) 347-1107 or the Town Finance Office (540) 347-1101. ■



*FIRE PREVENTION, continued from front page.*

Next it will inspect buildings of public assembly (restaurants, recreational facilities, churches, etc.), institutional structures (hospitals, assisted living facilities, group homes, correctional facilities), and storage and warehouse structures. Also to be inspected will be public and private schools and local structures of mercantile/business use. Eventually, the common areas of multi-family residential structures also will be inspected.

To support the Fire Prevention program, the Town Council set the following fee structure for businesses:

\$35.00 flat fee in FY2008

\$35.00 plus \$0.01/square foot (over 2500 square feet) in FY2009

\$50.00 plus \$0.01/square foot in FY2010

New structures receive this type of fire safety inspection as part of their final inspection or accompanying a new Certificate of Occupancy, and thus are given a respite for the first three years. Buildings in which no violations are found for two consecutive inspections/years will also receive a break the following year. It's hoped that eventually all structures will fall into this category. ■

## WARF Rocks for Spring!

If there's one place in Warrenton that rocks, hops, jumps and jiggles, it's the WARF. It's the place to go to find people in action for fitness and fun all the time. At the WARF there are plenty of activities to get you moving. Here's a sneak peek at what's going on there.

### Group Fitness

With over 30 class offerings per week, the WARF's Group Fitness lineup has something for everyone. One of the facility's more popular classes, "Cycle," is a cardio-blasting cycle class designed to burn calories and boost energy. Many patrons report that it's a great workout, and they're losing inches on their waists!

For a more relaxing workout, try one of the WARF's Pilates or Yoga classes. The WARF has a variety of options including "Healing Yoga," "Yogalates," "Mat Pilates," "Strength Pilates," "Yoga for Fitness" and "Teen Yoga." All improve posture, strength and flexibility while reducing tension and stress.

Group fitness classes are included in membership. Bring a friend for only \$6 per class.

### Water Aerobics

The Water Aerobics line-up at the WARF has a new addition. The facility's newest water class, "Water Walking," is a water exercise class that incorporates water currents into a full-body workout. Water currents provide a source of fun

## Earth Hour – Turn Off. Take Action.

Everyone knows that global warming is a BIG problem. What can one person do? Well, on March 28, 2009 at 8:30 PM, millions of people all over the world are planning to turn off their lights for one hour, to insist that we take action on climate change.

The project is called "Earth Hour."

Over 64 countries and territories are participating in Earth Hour 2009. Last year 50-million people in 35 different countries participated. That's a lot of people, but wouldn't it be great if that number were even larger? The number of participants is growing daily as people realize how such a simple act can have such a profound result in affecting change.

If you want to learn more about Earth Hour please go to [www.earthhour.org](http://www.earthhour.org). While you're there you can also sign up to be a part of the project. All that's needed is your e-mail, zip code and country. It's mainly just to include you in the count. ■



and low-impact resistance to strengthen muscles and improve balance.

Water Aerobics and Water Walking are included in membership. Try a class for only \$6. Punch passes are also available.

### Learn-to Swim-Programs

Kids can be ready for summer swim teams and poolside play in no time with the WARF's Spring Aquatics Programs. Offerings for infants, beginners and even experienced swimmers are available. Classes begin March 9th and will be available throughout the season.

The facility's most anticipated class of the season, "Summer Prep," will also be offered this spring. The class is designed to help swimmers prepare for upcoming summer swim team seasons.

### Child Care

For those with kids, "Warren's Place," the facility's new childcare room, allows parents to drop their children off in a fun, safe environment while they work out or swim at the WARF.

"Warren's Place" is open Monday - Saturday from 8:30 - 11:30 AM and accepts children from ages 2 months to 12 years. Registration is required, so stop by the Front Desk at the WARF to sign up. ■

## Water Lines To Be Flushed

The Town of Warrenton Utilities Department will begin its bi-annual flushing of the water lines throughout the water distribution system. This is normally done twice a year to clear the water lines of any sediment, and to inspect and exercise the valves and fire hydrants in the process. The spring flushing will be conducted beginning on March 23, and will run thru all of April from 7:00 PM until 1:00 AM.

This procedure was not performed during the scheduled fall flushing due to the water shortage. This was the first time in 25 years that the flushing had to be put on hold. As a result, you may have noticed that some periodic flushings were conducted to make up for the missed flushing during the fall session.

If you experience any discoloration in your water, this can normally be resolved by running your cold water for several minutes until it clears. Don't run the hot water to clear up the water. This only allows the discolored water to enter your hot water tank. If you still have trouble with your water after doing this, contact Warrenton Utilities Superintendent Richard Wines at (540) 347-1858. ■

## Drinking from a Garden Hose May Be Unsafe

Children love to catch a drink from a garden hose, especially while frolicking in a sprinkler. Some adults even think it's safe. But there are some good reasons not to drink from a garden hose. Test your knowledge with these questions and answers.



**Q:** Why does the water taste funny when I drink from a green or black garden hose?

**A:** Because the inner linings of green and black garden hoses are coated with a chemical to keep the hose supple. You are drinking that chemical. Only white garden hoses are safe to drink from. They have no chemical coating inside. That's why RV campers are told to use only white potable hoses for water consumption.

**Q:** Why is the water so hot in my garden hose when it first comes out of the spray nozzle?

**A:** Solar energy! Leaving a garden hose outdoors allows the sun to cook the water inside the hose. The water can become scalding hot, especially in black hoses.

The best advice is to avoid drinking from a garden hose altogether. ■

## Invasive Beetle A Danger To Ash Trees

Take note, tree lovers, especially if you have a beloved ash tree in your yard. The Emerald Ash Borer has arrived in our area and may wreak havoc with our native ash trees.

The Emerald Ash Borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) is an exotic beetle that was discovered in southeastern Michigan in the summer of 2002. While the adult beetles nibble on ash foliage but cause little damage, the larvae (the immature stage) feed on the inner bark of ash trees. This disrupts the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, killing the tree.

Since 2002, the borer has been found in nine states, including Virginia. It is lethal to all species of ash, including White Ash and Green Ash, both of which are native to Fauquier County. Currently, there are three known Virginia infestations, all in Fairfax County. Eradication efforts have proven unsuccessful.

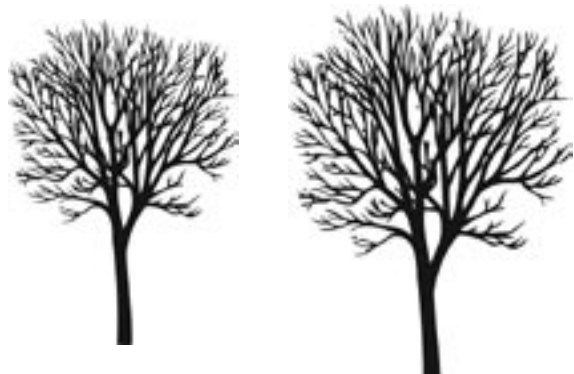
The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) and the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have implemented a quarantine of the insect itself, ash nursery stock, ash logs, and all hardwood firewood. Fairfax, Prince William, Loudoun, Fauquier, and the associated independent cities are all covered under the quarantine. Ash material and all hardwood firewood can move from county to county within the quarantine, but may not leave these four counties.

The Virginia Department of Forestry is monitoring this insect in Warrenton and Fauquier County. If you have an ash tree that is exhibiting signs of stress or has the characteristic D-shaped exit holes of the Emerald Ash Borer, please contact the Fauquier County Forester, Joe Rossetti, at (540) 347-6358. For more information, go to:

[www.emeraldashborer.info](http://www.emeraldashborer.info)

[www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/](http://www.emeraldashborer.wi.gov/)

[www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/eab.shtml](http://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/animals/eab.shtml) ■



## Traffic Safety – How Much Do You Know?

Understanding traffic accident statistics for your local driving area can be a great first step in avoiding an accident. Do you know the traffic risks in our local community? The Warrenton Police Department can help. The department does a lot more than just respond to random accidents to help motorists. They actually study traffic accident data to look for trends, and then take action to minimize risk to drivers in the area.

Test your knowledge of local driving risks with these questions developed from Town Police Department statistics:

**Q:** What were the primary causes of traffic accidents in Town in 2008?

**A:** Statistics show that the two leading causes were following too close and failing to yield by pulling out in front of oncoming traffic.

**Q:** What would you guess are the total number of reportable and non-reportable traffic accidents in Town for 2008? (Non-reportable accidents are those occurring on private property, those with total damage under \$1,000, or those with no injury.)

**A:** In 2008 there were 354 reportable and 250 non-reportable traffic accidents in the Town.

**Q:** What roads in Town were the sites of the most traffic accidents in 2008?

**A:** Broadview Avenue and Lee Highway led the list. Others

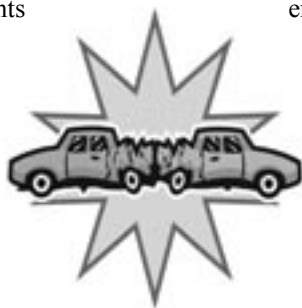
include Blackwell Road, Frost Avenue and Shirley Avenue.

**Q:** If you were to guess that icy road conditions made winter the busiest accident time of the year, would you be right?

**A:** Not exactly. While January had the highest number of accidents in Town in 2008, other busy months were April, May and June. So it pays to drive safely all year round because traffic danger is unpredictable.

**Q:** When Police Department traffic safety initiatives are employed in high-traffic areas, does it make any difference?

**A:** Unquestionably yes! Traffic initiatives on Warrenton's main roads definitely reduced accidents in 2008. But when these resources were deployed elsewhere, the frequency of accidents went back up.



The Warrenton Police Department collates and reviews traffic accident data on a quarterly and annual basis. Trends and underlying factors are identified, and patrol staff is then deployed or realigned in response to this data. Improving traffic safety is one of the Warrenton Police Department's prime directives. If you've recently noticed the department's new motorcycle officer patrolling the Town, traffic safety is his primary responsibility.

But responsibility for safety on our roadways doesn't rest strictly with the police. All of us play a part in it. Safety is everyone's business. ■

## Hit the Streets with the 2010 Census!

How long would it take you to count up to 300-million all by yourself? Exactly! The Federal Government can't do it alone either. But that's precisely what they'll be tasked with doing in the upcoming 2010 Census.

And they're asking for help!

If you're looking for a temporary job that's fun and meaningful, maybe there's one waiting for you with the U.S. Census Bureau. And in a tight economy, there's nothing like steady work, right?

The government conducts the Census every ten years, and 2010 is the year. But census data collection will actually start in 2009, and the Census Bureau is preparing to hire a huge force of employees to help them count big numbers.

The Census is critical to the way our government works. Census data deter-

mines seats in the House of Representatives, how legislative district lines are drawn, and the distribution of Federal dollars to local communities. With somewhere in the neighborhood of 300-million people living in the United States, you can imagine what kind of army is needed to collect all that Census data.

Some Census employees go door-to-door in their communities, asking residents census questions. Others do office-based support work. To join the force you need to be at least 18 years old and a U.S. Citizen with a valid Social Security Number. You'll also have to pass a written test and a background check. And if you happen to be bilingual, boy, do they want to hear from you. Uncle Sam says the pay's competitive, the hours are flexible, the job's temporary and the work's important.

For information on how to apply for a Census job, call (571) 730-6390. ■



## Protecting Our Precious Water

Keeping our natural water supply free of debris and chemicals benefits us all! Consequently, this awesome responsibility falls on all of us. We can all work together to protect our natural water sources by being mindful of things that contaminate ground water and storm water.

First of all, it's pretty basic that we all keep the ditches and storm water inlets around our property clean and free of trash, lawn clippings, leaves and all contaminants. You probably already thought of that. But with the coming of warm weather, there are a few springtime activities that can have a dramatic effect on our water supply – car washing, car and home maintenance, and lawn mowing.

### Only Rain Goes Down the Drain

Wastewater from the spring ritual of car washing can compromise our water quality. Here are some things to remember for environmentally friendly car washing:

1. Soap from washing in driveways goes directly into our storm water inlets and then directly to our streams and natural waterways. Soapy water and the chemicals in many detergents are harmful to fish and other aquatic life. This pollution also can get in drinking water in streams where water treatment plants take in the water farther downstream.
2. Try washing your car on your yard or taking your vehicles to a commercial car wash. Car washes are set up to either recycle the water used or catch the water into a sanitary sewer line that goes directly to the water treatment plant rather than a storm water line that goes straight to our streams and natural waterways.
3. When working on your vehicle or your home, properly dispose of oil, antifreeze, paint and paint thinners, hydraulic fluids and any other chemicals. One quart of oil dumped into our natural waterways can pollute one millions gallons of water.

### Mulch, Don't Bag!

Your seasonal lawn-mowing break is almost over. Time to saddle up and mow for another season. While you're out riding or pushing, remember our ground water.

1. Mulching helps us to return the natural fertilizing effects of grass trimmings to the soil, limiting the amount of fertilizer we use on our lawns. And less fertilizer on your grass means less gets washed from your yard into the storm drain.
2. Mulching keeps the lawn trimmings on the lawn and out

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## Recycling 101

The Town of Warrenton would like to thank all those residents and businesses that participate in the recycling program. Keep up the good work; you are making a difference! We would also like to encourage those not participating to consider getting involved.

Each recycled item (blue-bags, newspaper and cardboard) is picked up by a separate truck and hauled directly to the recycling center where it is dumped in the appropriate containers. Therefore, it must be kept separate. All materials for recycling should be placed at the curbside and set out by 8:00 AM on Wednesday morning. Please don't set out your recycling materials the night before; animals can get into it and make quite a mess.

With Earth Day coming in April, now's a good time to make a decision to be a part of making a better planet. Here's a primer on what you need to know to participate in the Town's recycling program:

### Blue Bag Materials

Most of the recyclable materials around your house are containers from your kitchen or bathroom. These can all go together in the blue bags. But anything that doesn't belong in the bags will contaminate the whole bag, meaning it won't be recycled. In general, the blue bags are for glass, plastic, steel and aluminum only. Let's get more specific:

**Glass** – Bottles and jars are acceptable. Sheet or window glass is not.

**Plastic** – Only Type 1 and 2 plastics are recyclable. Check the little triangle on the bottom of the container to see what type it is. Please don't put Styrofoam packaging into the blue bags. This type of plastic currently is not recyclable.

**Metal** – Steel and aluminum cans, foil, and pie pans are acceptable. Scrap metal is not (but it is recycled at the landfill).

It's critical that only the correct items be placed in the blue bags. Town crews report that there are blue bags being set out with trash, newspapers, cardboard or non-recyclable items in them. These bags will not be picked up. A yellow sticker will be placed on the bag indicating that it had non-recyclable items in it.

### Corrugated Cardboard

The Town makes a separate pick-up for corrugated cardboard. Corrugated cardboard typically includes storage, moving and shipping boxes, and even some pizza boxes. It doesn't include fiberboard, which is that thin cardboard found in cake mix boxes, cereal boxes and 12-pack cartons. When you have corrugated cardboard to be recycled, please call Public Works to be placed on the Cardboard List for

*Continued on page 6.*

## Spring Clean-Up Week Set

Spring Clean-Up Week for the Town of Warrenton has been scheduled for the week of April 20 - 24. Town trucks will provide extra collections in all residential areas to pick up trash, refuse and other items that can't be handled on the regular weekly schedule.

All items must be placed on the street line by 8:00 AM on the day scheduled for your area (see area map). No return trips can be made. All trash and refuse must be placed in proper containers. Tree trimmings and brush must be placed separately. Small clippings from bushes or shrubs should be bagged and placed with regular refuse. All metal must be separated from wood and placed separately. Dirt, rocks, sod, old stumps and large logs will not be picked up.

Town crews will not pick up tree trimmings and brush cut by tree companies or contractors; that's their responsibility.

To have an appliance picked up containing Freon, you'll have to pay a \$10 fee before pick-up. Call Public Works in

advance and make arrangements to have Freon items picked up and the fee paid. Also, if you set a refrigerator or freezer out for collection please remove the door for safety reasons.

The Town no longer picks up TVs, computer monitors, copiers, fax machines, microwave ovens and paint. But these items can be safely recycled at the Fauquier County Landfill.



### Spring Clean-Up Schedule (See area map)

<b>Area A</b>	<b>April 20</b>
<b>Area B</b>	<b>April 21</b>
<b>Area C</b>	<b>April 22</b>
<b>Area D</b>	<b>April 23</b>
<b>Area E</b>	<b>April 24</b>

### *RECYCLING, continued from page 5.*

that week. If you have corrugated cardboard on a regular basis you can request to be placed on the list permanently, otherwise call when you need a collection. Please call before Wednesday at 8 AM to get on the list.

Town crews are having problems with people putting other items in the boxes. Don't put paper or any kind of trash or packaging material in the boxes. It's best to flatten the boxes and secure them in a way that prevents them from blowing away on windy days. Please don't put other recyclable items on top of your boxes to secure them because items are not picked up at the same time. So if you use your blue bag to hold down your cardboard, the boxes might blow away when the blue bag truck collects first.

### Newspaper, etc.

This collection is for newspapers, magazines and phone books. No office paper, junk mail or packaging paper. There is a container at the Public Works Facility at 360 Falmouth Street where you can take that paper. The container is around the corner of the building and is available 24/7.

Your newspaper should be either placed in a paper bag or bundled with string and set out on Wednesdays. ■



## Holiday Refuse Schedule

### Memorial Day – May 25

**Monday, 5/25/09** – Holiday; no refuse collection

**Tuesday, 5/26/09** – Monday and Tuesday's collections

**Wednesday, 5/27/09** –  
Regular recycling collections  
(cardboard, newspaper and blue bags)

**Thursday, 5/28/09** – Regular refuse collection

**Friday, 5/29/09** – Regular refuse collection

### Independence Day – July 4

**Monday, 6/29/09** – Regular refuse collection

**Tuesday, 6/30/09** – Regular refuse collection

**Wednesday, 7/1/09** – Regular recycling  
collections (cardboard, newspaper and  
blue bags)

**Thursday, 7/2/09** – Thursday and Friday's  
collection.

**Friday, 7/3/09** – Holiday; No Refuse Collection



## Town Area Map for Spring Clean-Up



### Brush Collection Policy

The Town of Warrenton has an ongoing brush and limb collection program that's for residential collection only, and strictly for larger tree refuse. There's no specific schedule; Town crews do this on an ongoing basis as time allows. These special collections are for larger limbs only – up to 9" in diameter. And the Town crews prefer longer limbs, so there's no need to cut them into shorter lengths.

All small limbs, twigs, clippings, vines, grass and weeds should be placed in bags and set out with regular household refuse. Limbs that are too small for the chipper, yet too big to place in bags, can be bundled or tied up with string and set out with your refuse. Large logs, stumps, rocks and dirt will not be picked up.

Remember that if you hire a contractor or a landscaping company to do tree trimming, it's their responsibility to haul the trimmings and brush away.

If you'd like to take advantage of the special collection for larger brush and limbs, place your limbs at your curbside or along the road to make it easier for pick-up. It's a big help if you stack the limbs neatly and in the same direction for ease in feeding them into the chipper. Then call the Public Works Office at (540) 347-1858 to be placed on the "Brush List." Town crews will get to it as soon as possible. ■



## Town Office Hours and Telephone Numbers

*Town Office Hours are 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM*

*The area code is 540 unless otherwise noted.*

Finance Department.....	347-1102
Inspections .....	347-2405
Maintenance Shop.....	347-1858
Police Department	
Office of the Chief .....	347-1105
Police Station .....	347-1107
Non-emergency .....	347-1100
<b>Emergency .....</b>	<b>911</b>
Planning and Zoning .....	347-2405
Recreation Department (Aquatic Center) .....	349-2520
Recycling .....	347-1858
Sewage Plant.....	347-1104
Town Hall.....	347-1101
Town Manager .....	347-4505
Utilities.....	347-6574
Water Bills .....	347-2678
Water Plant.....	347-1103
TTD/TTY .....	1-800-828-1120

**After Hours Water and Sewer Emergency  
347-1100**

## *WATER QUALITY, continued from page 5.*

of the ditches and storm water inlets. This reduces the possibility of clogging the ditch or sending the grass clippings to be deposited in storm water outlets -- which goes directly to our streams. The high level of nitrogen found in grass pollutes our streams and waterways.

3. Mulching your grass clippings preserves valuable landfill space. Much of our summertime weekly trash is lawn waste.

## Remember...

Most water that enters storm drains goes directly into surface water without any water quality treatment. Water that is not collected inside your home goes directly to the storm drain. From there it's a short trip to our streams, rivers, and ultimately the Chesapeake Bay.

For a whole lot of great information on water and water quality, check out this website:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/learn.htm#water> ■

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P.O. Drawer 341  
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## The Town Crier

is published by the Warrenton Town Council to inform  
citizens of the major events which affect our government and  
community.

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